AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (withdrawn) A monitoring system comprising:

at least one camera installed on a vehicle and having a lateral visual field of substantially 180 degrees as a camera range in the rear of the vehicle; and

an image processing unit for receiving. as an input, a camera image of said camera and generating, from said camera image. an image viewed from a virtual viewpoint to be displayed on a display device,

wherein said image processing unit has a mode for displaying a mirror image of an image having a lateral visual field of substantially 180 degrees in the rear of the vehicle.

2.   (currently amended) A monitoring system comprising:

one or more cameras for capturing surrounding state of a vehicle; and

an image processing unit for receiving, as an input, a camera image of said one or more cameras and generating, from said camera image, a synthesized image viewed from a virtual viewpoint to be displayed on a display device using said camera image and perspective projection conversion method, the synthesized image viewed from a virtual viewpoint set above the one or more cameras in a downward direction,

wherein said synthesized image processing unit has a mode for displaying a synthesized image in which comprising an enlargement ratio of is relatively higher in a nearby area of the vehicle including grounding portion[[s]] of the tire being relatively higher

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than an enlargement ratio of a peripheral area around the vehicle~~both front and rear tires of left or right side of the vehicle than in a peripheral area of the vehicle~~.

3. (previously presented) The monitoring system of Claim 2,

wherein the enlargement ratio becomes lower in a direction from said nearby area of the vehicle to said peripheral area of the vehicle in said synthesized image.

4. (original) The monitoring system of Claim 2,

wherein said image processing unit generates said synthesized image in such a manner that an area along a side surface of the vehicle has linearity.

5. (original) The monitoring system of Claim 2,

wherein at least one camera out of said one or more cameras is installed to have a camera range at least including part of a body side surface and part of a front tire, and

said image processing unit generates, from a camera image of said at least one camera, said synthesized image in such a manner that said body side surface and said front tire are imaged therein.

6. (cancelled)

7. (withdrawn) A monitoring system comprising:

one or more cameras for capturing surrounding state of a vehicle: and

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an image processing unit for receiving, as an input, a camera image of said one or more cameras and generating a virtual viewpoint image viewed from a virtual viewpoint to be displayed on a display device.

wherein said image processing unit has a mode for displaying, in parallel to said virtual viewpoint image, an image of a region ahead in a moving direction of the vehicle or in a direction to which the vehicle is able to move with a positional relationship with said virtual viewpoint image kept.

8.   (withdrawn) A monitoring system comprising:

a plurality of cameras for capturing surrounding state of a vehicle; and

an image processing unit for receiving, as an input, camera images of said plurality of cameras and generating, from said camera images, a virtual viewpoint image viewed from a virtual viewpoint to be displayed on a display device,

wherein said plurality of cameras include a first camera and a second camera having overlapping camera ranges, and

said image processing unit is able to generate a first virtual viewpoint image that is generated by using said first camera without using said second camera and includes a portion overlapping in the camera range of said first camera with said second camera and a portion not overlapping, and a second virtual viewpoint image that is generated by using said second camera without using said first camera and includes a portion overlapping in the camera range of said second camera with said first camera and a portion not overlapping.

GAS/sj

9.   (withdrawn) The monitoring system of Claim 8,

wherein said image processing unit has a mode for displaying said first and second

virtual viewpoint images in parallel on one screen.

10.   (withdrawn) The monitoring system of Claim 8,

wherein said first virtual viewpoint image is generated by using merely camera

images of cameras installed on side portions of the vehicle, and

said second virtual viewpoint image is generated by using merely camera images of

cameras installed on front and rear portions of the vehicle.

11.   (withdrawn) A monitoring system comprising:

a plurality of cameras for capturing surrounding state of a vehicle; and

an image processing unit for receiving, as an input, camera images of said plurality

of cameras and generating, from said camera images, a virtual viewpoint image viewed

from a virtual viewpoint to be displayed on a display device,

wherein said plurality of cameras include at least a first camera for capturing a left

rear region of the vehicle and a second camera for capturing a right rear region of the

vehicle, and

said image processing unit has a mode for displaying, together with said virtual

viewpoint image, at least part of a mirror image of the camera image of said first camera or

said second camera.

GAS/sjr

12.   (withdrawn) A monitoring system comprising:

a plurality of cameras for capturing surrounding state of a vehicle; and

an image processing unit for receiving, as an input, camera images of said plurality of cameras and generating, from said camera images, a virtual viewpoint image viewed from a virtual viewpoint to be displayed on a display device,

wherein said image processing unit has a mode for preferentially using a camera image of a camera installed on a side portion of the vehicle in generating said virtual viewpoint image.

13-14. (cancelled)

15.   (currently amended) A ~~The~~ monitoring system comprising:~~of Claim 2,~~

one or more cameras for capturing surrounding state of a vehicle; and

an image processing unit for receiving a camera image of said one or more cameras and generating a synthesized image to be displayed on a display device based on said camera image,

wherein said image processing unit is operarble to project[[s]] said camera image onto a bowl model and operable to generate[[s]] said synthesized image ~~by viewing said projected camera image from a virtual viewpoint~~viewed a virtual viewpoint, and said synthesized image includes an enlargement ratio of a nearby area of the vehicle including

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grounding portion of the tire being relatively higher than an enlargement ratio of a
peripheral area around the vehicle.

16.   (new) A monitoring system comprising:

one or more cameras for capturing surrounding state of a vehicle; and

an image processing unit for receiving a camera image of said one or more
cameras and generating a synthesized image to be displayed on a display device based
on said camera image,

wherein said synthesized image includes an enlargement ratio[[ʀ]] of a nearby area
of the vehicle including grounding portion of the tire being relatively higher than an
enlargement ratio[[ʀ]] of a peripheral area around the vehicle, and said synthesized image
includes a vehicle image having a linearity of the side surface of the vehicle, the linearity of
the side surface being parallel to and ahead in the moving direction of the vehicle.